

In the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

1. (Previously presented) A device useful for detecting an analyte of interest in a liquid sample, the device comprising:

a carrier formed of a permeable material for conducting flow of liquid sample suspected of containing an analyte of interest;

one or more reagents disposed on said carrier for detecting said analyte of interest in said liquid sample;

a housing for receiving said carrier and comprising a sample deposition system, wherein the sample deposition system is operably associated with said carrier, wherein said sample deposition system delivers sample onto the carrier as a sample band of a first width, said sample band being essentially linear and the width being generally transverse to the path of the sample flow.

2. (Previously presented) The device of claim 1, further comprising a detection channel of a second width, comprising an immobilized reagent for binding with said analyte or with a binding partner thereof, downstream of said sample band, wherein the first width is greater than the second width to cause a convergence of the sample flow towards the detection channel.

3.-40. (Cancelled)

41. (Previously presented) The device of claim 1, wherein the carrier comprises a plurality of distinct carrier pads having an upper surface and a lower surface.

42. (Previously presented) The device of claim 41, wherein the plurality of distinct carrier pads comprises a sample receiving pad, an analyte detection pad, and a bridging pad, said sample receiving pad and analyte detection pad being coupled for sample flow by the bridging pad.

43. (Previously presented) The device of claim 42, wherein the bridging pad and the analyte detection pad are held in flow communication with one another through a wettable barrier layer that contacts both the bridging pad and the analyte detection pad.